

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 3

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION expressing the support of the Indiana Senate in encouraging clergy to pray according to the dictates of their conscience and thus ensuring religious liberty.

DELPH

January 11, 2006 , read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure.



SENATE RESOLUTION No. 3

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

A SENATE RESOLUTION expressing the support of the Indiana Senate in encouraging clergy to pray according to the dictates of their conscience and thus ensuring religious liberty.

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness . . .";

Whereas, The First Amendment to the Constitution states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances;

Whereas, President Washington felt that it was the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and to humbly implore His protection and favor;

Whereas, At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, Edmund Jennings Randolph moved "that a sermon be preached



at the request of the Convention on the 4th of July, the anniversary of Independence; & thenceforward prayers be used in ye Convention every morning" and that prayers have opened both Houses of Congress ever since (Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention of 1787, pp. 210-211);

Whereas, Article 3 of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which helped to establish the government of Indiana, states that religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education, shall forever be encouraged and that it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor;

Whereas, The December 1, 1817 Journal of the Indiana House of Representatives notes that a committee was appointed to "wait on the Rev. B. Adams, and request him to attend in the Representative Chamber immediately and open the present session of the General Assembly, by solemn prayer" and "the Rev. B. Adams...came in, performed divine service, by solemn prayer and then withdrew";

Whereas, The delegates to the State Constitutional Revision Convention on October 8, 1850, adopted a resolution directing "that the Secretary confer with the Clergy of this city, and request them to make such arrangements among themselves, as that one of their number open the Convention each day with prayer";

Whereas, Throughout Indiana's history, the journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives demonstrate a solid connection between the people and their religious beliefs as evidenced by Governor Conrad Baker's State of the State address on January 10, 1873, in which he "invokes the choicest benedictions of the Good Father upon our beloved State now and at every step in her future progress";



Whereas, For many years the rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives have included prayer as an Order of Business (House Rule 10.2 and Senate Rule 5(a));

Whereas, President Ronald Reagan designated 1983 as the national "Year of the Bible" and stated that "Many of our great national leaders - among them Presidents Washington, Jackson, Lincoln, and Wilson - paid tribute to the surpassing influence of the Bible in our country's development, as in the words of President Jackson that the Bible is 'the Rock on which our Republic rests'";

Whereas, former Governor Evan Bayh declared November 20-26, 1994, as "Christian Heritage Week" and noted "Religious holidays, festivals, and celebrations add to the cultural mosaic of our state....Churches are a functional part of many communities in our state often providing charitable assistance to those in need....Thanksgiving week is a fitting time to enter attention on the religious heritage of our state" (Executive Proclamation dated April 18, 1994); and

Whereas, Governor Mitch Daniels has expressed his belief that the decree issued by Judge David Hamilton is "regrettable": Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the
General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That it is contrary to the history and traditions of
- 2 these United States and of the State of Indiana to have the federal
- 3 government or other government authority dictate the content of prayer.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Indiana Senate respects the rule of law and
- 5 the Constitutions of these United States and of the State of Indiana.
- 6 SECTION 3. That the Indiana Senate supports the Speaker of the
- 7 House in his efforts to take all legal measures to ensure that members
- 8 of the clergy and others who lead any house of the Indiana General
- 9 Assembly in prayer should be able to pray according to the dictates of
- 10 their conscience.
- 11 SECTION 4 . That copies of this Resolution be transmitted by the



1 Secretary of the Senate to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
2 the Governor of Indiana, the Attorney General of Indiana, and members
3 of the Indiana Congressional delegation.

